

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract on page 11 as follows:

ABSTRACT

~~The present invention is directed to a~~ A device for connecting a longitudinal carrier, *for example*, a longitudinal spinal rod, to a bone fixation means, *for example*, a pedicle screw[.] ~~The device~~ includes a connection element having an upper end, a lower end, and a cavity extending from the upper end to the lower end[.] ~~the~~ The cavity having ~~has~~ a reduced diameter portion at the lower end ~~thereof~~ ~~thereby~~ forming a shoulder for engaging the head of the bone fixation means. The connection element ~~further including~~ includes a transverse channel for receiving the longitudinal carrier. The device further includes a sealing cap ~~incorporating~~ ~~tensioning means~~ for securing the longitudinal carrier within the transverse channel. The sealing cap ~~being~~ is secured to the connection element ~~by way of~~ with arresting means[.] ~~wherein the~~ ~~arresting means~~ that preferably includes a plurality of bulges, *i.e.*, projections[.] formed on the outer surface of the connection element and ~~the sealing cap~~ includes a plurality of complementary depressions, *i.e.*, recesses formed on the sealing cap. ~~The device may further~~ ~~incorporate~~ ~~securing~~ ~~means~~ ~~in order to prevent the bone fixation means from passing through the~~ ~~upper end of the cavity once the bone fixation means has been introduced into the connection element.~~